

THE STATE-JOURNAL REGISTER

May 16, 2008

Nicole Milstead

Damon Movie Scenes Being Shot at Illini Country Club: Casting Agents Want Pre-1994 Vehicles to Use in Film

Sam Pfister looks like Matt Damon and drives a 1993 Isuzu Trooper. He is perfect for a scene in Damon's new movie, "The Informant," a portion of which is being shot Sunday through Tuesday in Springfield.

Los Angeles-based casting agent Rich King was here Thursday, searching for pre-1994 vehicles and extras for "The Informant," which is being directed by Steven Soderbergh. Location scenes are being shot in central Illinois.

The film is about Mark Whitacre (Damon's character), a former Archer Daniels Midland executive and FBI informant. Filming has already taken place in Decatur and will continue at Illini Country Club Sunday and Monday. The extras will also be used Tuesday for filming at the state Capitol.

King needed a look-a-like to play a younger Matt Damon in an FBI scene, but Pfister didn't quite fit the bill.

"They said I was too young for the FBI part, which means I shouldn't have shaved my manly beard this morning," Pfister said.

Pfister was not left completely out, though. He will play a waiter in a scene being taped Sunday and Monday at Illini, and his Trooper earned a part as well.

"If he needs a stunt double, I'd be totally willing to step in," Pfister said.

The casting group was looking for about 50 pre-1994 cars in good condition to be parked in the Illini parking lot, which will be in the frame at the country club. About 75 extras also are needed.

Bud Bartlett, who is retired, brought his 1968 AMC Rebel to be a part of the movie. King assured Bartlett no one else would drive his car.

"I used to produce TV shows," Bartlett said. "I know it wasn't in the same league as this, but I thought this would be fun, and it is an usual car that could be used," he said. King said he didn't know where the scene would be shot; he is never told until the night before the filming, he said. But representatives of Illini confirmed the scene would be filmed there.

“It isn’t a lot of money, but it’s an experience and a fun day for them,” King said of the extras. “They are guaranteed 10 hours of work, and we take care of them. We feed them breakfast and lunch.”

To participate you can send a photo of your car, your phone number and your sizes to theinformantcasting@gmail.com.